

February 6, 1974

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have been interested in this problem and I have talked to independent truckers and independent truckline operators and I know what some of their problems are. Now if this, whatever group goes to Washington, you can do one or two things. You can go up there and make it appear that you are representing a minority of people who are intent by force, violence, and lawlessness, who bring as they have said, their country to its knees, or you can go up there and represent the broad mass of public who are going to be hurt by small groups taking over the roads, highways, filling stations and so on of this nation, and causing great economic disruption, hardships and even the possibility that it might, if carried to extreme, trigger an economic upheaval that could end up in a terrible recession or depression, because once this problem of unemployment starts it is not going to end, it is not going to stop. Now if you have a pre-arranged plan, if you are doing something and are going to do something other than a publicity stunt, you might accomplish something. If you don't, it will soon be recognized for the sham that it is and it will do nothing but bring a good laugh. Now this has to be undertaking in a serious vein and a serious manner because there are problems involved in this that are not easily solved and you can't do it by marching up some steps somewhere which has been the way that we have tried to solve things for a good many years. We have talked about law and order a good deal over the past few years, this is an example of where law and order, once it breaks down in a nation, ends up. There is no stopping it, it is a chain reaction. And it brings us eventually to a state of anarchy where anybody who doesn't agree with something instantly now can upset the whole routine of thousands and hundreds of thousands and millions of people by simply getting up in a strategic place disrupting the economic lifeline of the whole nation. Law and order applies to everybody and that includes truckers and I hope that I know that the great majority of these people are decent people, they are concerned, they are doing the best they can but unless we are actually going to go and help them, I think that we had better abandon this whole idea.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers and then Keyes, well Keyes is passing, and then Stahmer, Waldron.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't think the idea is unreasonable. I think this body represents the people in the state of Nebraska because there are too many people in the state to directly govern themselves. Now, if the people as a body, don't have a voice other than through this body, and there are things that the people in this state want to have brought to the National of Administrations attention, I don't see that it is unreasonable to suggest that this body or a representative from this body go to the National Administration. Anytime a project is to be undertaken which is new or unusual, the first inclination is to sit down and find all the reasons why it should not be done, speculate about all the causes that will lead to failure and wind up doing nothing. And sitting back in the old comfortable rut, but that is not what we are going to do in this situation, I hope. If the whole body can not go, then perhaps all of the officers or a substantial number of the officers of the Legislature ought to go so it will be clear that this is a delegation representing the Legislature, which in turn is representing the people of the state, and I don't think the discussion has to be limited to the problem of the truckers. What is happening with the truckers is like the tip of the iceberg, there is an administration in office which has wrecked the economic life of the country to paraphrase from Senator Carstens without trying to say that his view is what I am trying to articulate now. We can not say that because a National Administration has taken a policy and set itself on a course which is damaging to large numbers of the people, that everybody has to sit back and allow this to happen. We can not say that to try to stem the tides that the